13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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species of s'ailes mouche, which apparently were known as « langue boeuf » in the day of Breton (7). [343]

Specimen citation: 1599, 3248, 3664.

ARACEAE. Arum Family.

Anthurium palmatum (Linnaeus) Kunth, Enum. Pl. 3: 80. 1841. *mûbi* (generic for « bush-rope »).

« Hard » *mûbi*, as this species is called (as opposed to *Monstera pertusa* which is known as « soft » *mûbi*), is apparently known only from Dominica where it occurs as a common but weak liana on trunks of trees in moist forests at middle elevations and at lower elevations on the windward coast.

The aërial climbing and binding roots are used by the women for making spiral basketry. After scraping them to remove the cortex, the roots are either dyed yellow by rubbing with a tuber of saffron (*Curcuma longa*) or mauve by rubbing with the moistened leaves of the tree known as tan (*Picramnia pentandra*). From the scraping of the bark of *mûbi* together with those from the bottom of the conch shell (patois: lambi; Carib *wôtabuti*) a concoction was formerly made to be taken as a cure for yaws (Carib: *ydya*, « prickle »). [285] [384] [278]

Specimen citation: 36 (T), 3205, 3248.

Caladium bicolor (Aiton) Ventenat, Descr. Cels. t. 30. 1800. Dasheen Marbré, Hale Bois.

An American species of uncertain origin but believed to be a native of Amazonia or the Guianas. It is much cultivated as an ornamental for its beautiful leaves. [247]

This arum is esteemed as a yard or house plant in Dominica and frequently escapes.

The Caribs use the heated rhizome as a poultice for extracting splinters. [278 752]

Specimen citation: 1573.

Colocasia esculenta (Linnaeus) Schott, Melet. 1: 18. 1832. *Caladium colocasia* W. F. Wight in Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 9: 206. 1905.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Alpinia speciosa (Wendland) K. Schumann, Fl. Kaiser-Wilhelmsl. 29. 1887.

Languas speciosa Small, Fl. Southeast. U. S. 307, 1375. (1913).

Shell Flower. — Lavandre.

[247] A plant of the East Indies, long cultivated for ornament in the West Indies and often persisting after cultivation. Lavandre has become naturalized in various parts of Dominica, particularly at lower elevations.

[278] A « tea » made by the Caribs from the leaves and flowers of this species is supposedly efficacious against indigestion or « wind in the stomach ». Further uses of this species as ingredients in [515] ritual baths are described under *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 23 (T), 3211.

Curcuma longa Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2. 1753.

Turmeric. — Saffran.

A native of the East Indies, where it is grown for its tubers which form an ingredient of curry powders, saffran has been introduced into the West Indies and is generally cultivated by [386] the Dominica Indian as a dye plant.

The Caribs use the carrot-like tubers to give a yellow stain to weaving materials obtained from *wèbi* (*Antherium palmatum* and *Monstera pertusa*) and other lianas. Certain round baskets [285] made by the Indian women are often woven in two colors, yellow (from *Curcuma longa*) and mauve (from *Picramnia pentandra*).

Specimen citation: 8 (T), 3330.

Hedychium coronarium Koenig ex Retz. Obs. 3: 73. 1783.

Ginger Lily. — Gingembre Douleur, Canne Riviere.

This species, of southeastern Asia, has become naturalized in moist places on many of the West Indian islands.

[278] The Caribs of Dominica employ the leaves to make a « tea » used for fever, while the roots enter into the manufacture of a concoction which is a supposed cure for any internal pain. A chopped up decoction of the plant in water is also drunk as a « cure » for gonorrhea. For another use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 34B (T).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

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CANNACEAE. Canna Family.

Canna spp.

Marsee, Indian Shot, Canna. — Tolumas, Tulumas.

This genus is widespread in tropical America and has a number of local economic uses. The large leaves are used as crude wrapping paper and in Venezuela the rhizome is reported as the source of diuretic concoctions or emollient poultices (40). *Canna edulis*, a native of South America where it is known as *achira*, supplies edible rhizomes which are common in the highland Indian markets of the Andes where the species has been a common food plant since Inca times (68); elsewhere it is cultivated under the name Queensland arrowroot.

Several species of cannas occur in Dominica and these probably include *C. indica* L., *C. lambertii* Lindl., and possibly *C. edulis* Ker. However, the taxonomy of the genus is so troublesome as to make all determinations tentative.

In Dominica cannas are grown for food or ornament and for this reason are always seen in food or flower gardens and seldom if ever in the wild. Tolumas is cultivated by the Caribs as a substitute for West Indian arrowroot (*Maranta arundinacea*) to which it is sometimes preferred for the making of starch because its rhizomes are less brittle than are those of Maranta, and so they may be grated instead of pounded.

Specimen citation: 113 (T), 1266, 1823, 2557, 3980.

[247 242]

MARANTACEAE. Arrowroot Family.

Calathea allouia (Aublet) Lindley, Bot. Reg. 14: t. 1210. 1829. Topitambour.

A pubescent herb of the West Indies and tropical South America.

The clustered tubers on the roots of topitambour resemble small potatoes. When boiled and salted they are considered a good food by both the Caribs and Creoles of Dominica.

Specimen citation: 138 (T).

[242]